

Amherst, 21st Aug.

10 Greenwich St. N.Y.
25 Aug. 1845.

Prof. A. Gray -

Cambridge -

My dear Doctor,

I have recently heard, with equal surprise & grief, that you have been at N.Y. without my having the pleasure of seeing you. The newspapers, which, without my knowledge, gave a phantasm to my afflictions, will have informed you, that during the night of the 18/19 July, amidst the din & alarm of the dreadful fire, I lost my poor dear Henry, & whilst attending his last hours, my own residence, (where you called) fell a prey to the flames, & I lost every thing! My Herbarium - Books - Imp. &c. all are gone, & in my present desolation of heart, you can scarcely imagine how I miss them - I go no where, & see no one; & having, (as I believe I intimated the intention, when I had the pleasure of seeing you) resigned my engagement, in Wall Street, I am now thrown upon my own resources at a time of mental & corporeal prostration such as I never knew, or expected to experience. Indeed, Sam. has urged me to endeavour to take to the woods & fields again, but (had I the heart)

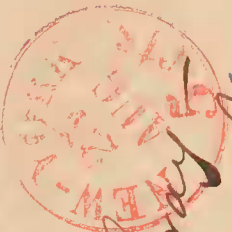
I have no longer the Strength, as my Nervous System is so impaired by the excitement & trials of the past 2 years, that my Right Side is, at times, seriously affected - On the morning of the fire, after having had the Body of my poor dear Boy removed, & my Mother, wife & 4 Chil.^{ren} (he himself being unfortunately at Glen Cove,) I was ^{myself} taken away by Dr. Beales in a carriage & remained on the floor, for 4 hours! However, Dr. Beales said, in the Evg., that the dangerous symptoms (whatever they were) had passed away; but I am still unfit for every thing - I sent you an advert^t, which I put in the papers, with a view to inform you of my Loss, & I did the same to Dr. Forey, (addressed to Princeton) but whether he is there, or not, I cannot tell, as I have neither seen, nor heard from, him since my departure for Buff: 2 1/2 years ago! However, I trust he is well & happy, as he is one for whom I have ever cherished a very sincere esteem & regard, & perhaps, when you write to, or see, him, you will take the trouble to communicate to him an account of my losses. I would write, myself, but, as I observed, I know

not where he is; & it is, perhaps, hardly worth while to write for the mere purpose of recounting my woes.

By the merest accident, a handful of my Books were saved by my Landlady, in my absence, & amongst them the (bound) 1st vol. of your Flora, & the 2nd part of the 2nd Vol. - which will induce me to complete the work; & if, therefore, you have thick paper copies of the 1st & 3^d numbers, please send them to W. Spatton, with whom I shall settle, but if none remain, in your hands, I shall buy of them the ordinary impressions - Which to my poor dear Henry was at Madeira (from Oct^r to June) I found a resource in my Herb^{um} & observing that I had very many Canada localities to add to Hooker's Flora, I had my copy, interleaved, & by great good luck it was at the Binders, & thus saved! However the project is, of course, at an end, & I find myself in possession of a small fragment of my Tool Chest, without wood to work upon - I have saved (that is to say, I have picked up, piece-meal, in different houses) Elliott - Mt. - Kunth & Nuttall - also my manufact. vol. of Cyperaceae - Pursh's Gram & Cat. - 3 or 4 vols. of Def. and. (which were also at the Binders) & some dozen, perhaps, of miscell^l Books - I know nothing, whatever, of your proceedings, but in the hope that you are successful & happy to the utmost extent of your wishes, I am Yrs. truly Geo. Engelm.

Paid.

PAID



Prof. A. Gray,
Harvard Univ.
Cambridge - Mass.

